United Nations A/72/699

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 January 2018
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Letter dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a declaration by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Status of Second World War Participants Act by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 70 (a).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-00767 (E) 190118 260118

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the Declaration by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Status of Second World War Participants Act by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Status of Second World War Participants Act by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia;

2. To transmit this Declaration to the President of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the United Nations, the parliaments of States members of the European Union, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

3. This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

V.I. **Matvienko**

Chair of the Federation Council
of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation

Moscow
26 December 2017

Declaration by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Status of Second World War Participants Act by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is deeply concerned by the adoption of the Status of Second World War Participants Act by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia, in which the status of Second World War Participants is granted not only to veterans of the Soviet army and anti-Hitler coalition countries, but also to those who fought on the side of Nazi Germany.

It is appalling that this deeply sacrilegious Act was adopted immediately after an absolute majority of States, on 19 December 2017, had supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

The members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation are convinced that the policy of the Latvian authorities, which is geared towards the de facto rehabilitation of Nazis and their accomplices and legislative recognition for their own version of the events of the Second World War, deserves the strongest condemnation from the international community.

There is no political, legal or moral justification for granting Nazi criminals and their accomplices equal rights to those who heroically resisted them throughout the bloodiest war in all human history and gave their lives liberating Europe from the plague of fascism. Some 150,000 Soviet soldiers died fighting for the liberation of Latvia. The Act of the Republic of Latvia therefore shows blatant disrespect to the heroes who rid the world of Nazism.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation supports the Declaration by the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the inadmissibility of justifying Nazism and desecrating the memory of soldiers of the anti-Hitler coalition, dated 13 October 2017, which states that any activity designed to justify the Nazi regime, its accomplices and related organizations is an affront to the memory of the millions of victims of the Second World War.

The members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believe that, in the interests of truth and justice, the States members of the European Union should strongly protest against such legal arbitrariness in modern Europe, where collaboration during the Second World War is strongly condemned by genuinely democratic States and societies.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the parliaments of States members of the European Union, and all States that supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", to decisively condemn the Status of Second World War Participants Act adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Latvia as a challenge to the entire international community and to the historical memory of the peoples who vanquished Nazism. Collaboration today deserves the same condemnation as collaboration in the past.